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21ST CENTURY CURES

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for passing the 21st Century Cures Act.

This legislation speaks for itself. It will bring healthcare research and infrastructure into the 21st century.

During my time here in Congress, I have met with countless groups across Georgia 12, like the Alzheimer's Association, who have told me how this legislation can and will change lives. In fact, more than 5 million Americans currently live with this disease. In a recent op-ed, the association noted that, if nothing is done to change the trajectory of Alzheimer's, as many as 16 million Americans will have the disease by 2050, which will drain every dollar from our healthcare system.

These staggering statistics go to show that the Cures Act will touch everyone's life. By equipping researchers, the 21st Century Cures Act is the answer to unleashing the barriers so the medical community can develop and deliver lifesaving treatments to Americans who are battling diseases like Alzheimer's.

I was proud to vote in favor of this historic 21st Century Cures and see it pass with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I am excited to see this legislation bring hope to Americans and their loved ones.

MEDIA SHOULD REPORT THE FACTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans are frustrated because they know that many of the news stories they read are actually opinion pieces. If the facts do not fit the liberal world view, dissent is silenced, and the result is one-sided and often misleading.

The Pew Research Center found that a majority of Americans—59 percent—reject the idea that reporters should add their own opinions to their news stories. Americans believe that the media's responsibility is to present the facts, not ignore them. The media has work to do to repair the self-inflicted damage to its credibility over the last few months. Distrust of the national media will continue until the media provides the American people with the facts instead of telling them what to think.

GVSU WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Grand Valley State University women's cross country team for yet another NCAA Division II national championship.

With their victory last month, the Lakers have won their fourth national title in 5 years and their fifth in school history—further cementing their status as a running dynasty. In addition to the national titles, four Lakers claimed All-American honors. Among them, senior Kendra Foley won her second national championship in 3 years and her fourth straight All-American honor.

Let us commend these runners, their parents, and their coaches for the years of dedicated training and the countless sacrifices that were necessary to accomplish such a feat. These athletes demonstrated just how competitive west Michigan is on the national stage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating these talented women, their coaches, and the rest of Grand Valley State University.

Anchor up, and go Lakers.

SHERIFF FRANK DENNING

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most dedicated public servants to Johnson County, Sheriff Frank Denning. Frank dedicated his more than 42-year career to helping keep Kansas communities safe.

That career began back in 1969 as a reserve police officer for the Great Bend Police Department, and for the past 33 years, he has proudly served the citizens of Johnson County. Frank served with the Great Bend, Larned, and Garden City Police Departments before joining the Johnson County Sheriff's Office in 1978.

Over the years, I have gotten to know Frank well, and I consider him to be a great friend and an even better public servant. His leadership in the sheriff's office has made Johnson County a leader in reducing recidivism rates through the Second Chance and Reentry Programs. We have worked hand in hand on several Federal issues that are important to the Third District of Kansas, most notably the Kelsey Smith Act.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Frank on his retirement and in wishing him and his wife, Robin, all the best in the years to come.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 6, 2016, at 11:29 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H. Con. Res. 174.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

STREAMLINING ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR SCHOOLS ACT OF 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 756) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 756

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.

Section 392 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6371a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF SCHOOL.—Notwithstanding section 391(6), for the purposes of this subsection, the term ‘school’ means—

“(A) an elementary school or secondary school (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

“(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)));

“(C) a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) or established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code;

“(D) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

“(E) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

“(F) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall establish a clearinghouse to disseminate information regarding available Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

“(A) consult with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a list of Federal programs and financing mechanisms that are, or may be, used for the purposes described in paragraph (2); and

“(B) coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a collaborative education and outreach effort to streamline communications and promote available Federal programs and financing mechanisms described in subparagraph (A), which may include the development and maintenance of a single online resource that includes contact information for relevant technical assistance in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy that States, local education agencies, and schools may use to effectively access and use such Federal programs and financing mechanisms.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 756, the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act, is an important bill that would help the Nation's schools make use of existing Federal programs to reduce their energy use.

There are currently a number of such programs that help schools undertake projects that improve energy efficiency. Unfortunately, school districts don't always have the know-how to navigate the complexities of the Federal system and take full advantage of these programs. This bill creates a simple, one-stop shop to get all the needed information and help the school districts participate more fully in these programs. The bottom line is that the Nation's schools will reduce their energy costs.

As it is, energy use in American K-12 schools totals \$6 billion a year, and reducing this figure can save taxpayer dollars or free up funds that schools can use on things other than on energy bills. H.R. 756 has no cost since it merely sets up a system under which existing school energy efficiency programs can work better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 756.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague from Texas.

This bill is important. I am here with my colleague Mr. CARTWRIGHT, who will be speaking on this in a few minutes and who played a major role in the passage of this legislation. Even though he is not a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, he is very much concerned about the opportunities that occur when we make our energy use more efficient.

Across the country, K-12 school districts spend literally billions of dollars on their energy bills each year while an estimated 14 million American children attend deteriorating public schools. According to a Department of Education survey, 43 percent of schools indicated that the poor condition of their facilities interferes with the delivery of instruction, and those are probably schools in my district and in all of our colleagues'. By upgrading these systems, we can increase efficiency and get better educational outcomes.

It is not good for kids to be cold or too hot when they are trying to study and learn. There are numbers of Federal initiatives already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient, but the problem is these programs are spread across the entire Federal Government, making it difficult for a small school, particularly in a rural district, to know where to look and how to take full advantage of these programs.

That is where this legislation comes in. As I mentioned, introduced by Congressman CARTWRIGHT and with my strong support, this Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act will provide a coordinating structure for schools to help them better navigate available Federal programs and financing options.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I thank the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership for taking this bill up under suspension today.

I remain hopeful that a compromise energy package can still be agreed upon this Congress, and I am glad this bill was included in both the House and Senate versions of that energy package. Nonetheless, I am pleased that commonsense ideas, such as this one, may still become law even if the larger package proves too large a lift in the last days of this Congress.

I thank Congressman PETER WELCH for his leadership on this bill. It is no secret that he is one of the great champions in the House of Representatives on the issue of energy efficiency, and it has been my pleasure to work with him on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, so many schools across the country are in need of upgrades and improvements to their facilities. In its

last Report Card for America's Infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the condition of our Nation's schools a grade of D. As school administrators undertake badly needed improvements, they have an opportunity here to substantially increase their facilities' energy efficiency, producing benefits for both the environment and the economy. In reducing their energy bills, schools can put the savings to use in other educational priorities.

K-12 school districts currently spend billions on their energy bills every year—in fact, according to ENERGY STAR, approximately \$6 billion every year—second only to personnel costs and way ahead of the costs of textbooks and supplies and things like that. Energy expenses are one of the few costs that can be reduced while, at the same time, improving classroom instruction. In fact, high-performance schools can lower a school district's operating costs by up to 30 percent.

There are numerous Federal initiatives already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient. As the gentleman from Vermont just mentioned, the problem is that these programs are spread across the Federal Government, making it challenging, time consuming, and costly for schools to identify and take full advantage of these programs.

Introduced in the Senate as S. 523, by Senator SUSAN COLLINS, this bipartisan Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act aims to provide a coordinating structure for schools to help them better navigate available Federal programs and financing options.

This legislation does not spend an additional dime of taxpayer money, and it keeps decisionmaking authority with the States, the school boards, and local officials.

It is a bill that establishes a clearinghouse through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which will disseminate information on Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to develop energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

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This bill also directs the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to coordinate with Federal agencies and develop an outreach effort to streamline communications and promote available Federal programs. This kind of outreach may include a single Web site that school officials can go to for one-stop shopping and learn about relevant energy efficiency programs.

Overburdened school administrators shouldn't have to spend hours and hours wading through the Federal bureaucracy as they look for ways to make energy efficiency improvements. This commonsense legislation will ensure that schools can more easily take advantage of already existing energy efficiency programs. It is a strategic

and cost-saving investment to relieve the fiscal pressure felt by school districts across the Nation while bringing us closer to American energy security.

So for all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, the Peach State (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 756, the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2015.

Efficient use of energy can help reduce consumption, lower energy bills, and may also help the environment as well. The benefits of energy efficiency can extend to our homes, businesses, and public institutions, including schools. There is a multitude of programs and finance mechanisms available for schools to use to further their energy efficiency goals. However, information on these resources is hard to find; and, as a result, schools may be missing out on opportunities to make their facilities more energy efficient.

H.R. 756 would direct the Department of Energy to create a clearinghouse in order to disseminate information on energy efficiency programs and grants for schools. This bill would also help facilitate coordination between Federal agencies so that they may develop a collaborative effort to help schools meet their energy efficiency needs.

I urge my colleagues to support our schools in their efforts to become more energy efficient by supporting H.R. 756.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, everything that needs to be said has been said.

I appreciate the work of my colleague from Texas (Mr. OLSON), and I really do appreciate as well the leadership of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), who has been very, very active on anything related to making better use of our energy.

I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that helps schools all across America. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 756.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 756.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POWER AND SECURITY SYSTEMS (PASS) ACT

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6375) to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy ef-

ficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6375

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Power And Security Systems (PASS) Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF NONAPPLICATION OF NO-LOAD MODE ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD TO CERTAIN SECURITY OR LIFE SAFETY ALARM OR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.

(a) Section 325(u)(3)(D)(ii) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(u)(3)(D)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking "2015" and inserting "2021"; and

(2) by striking "2017" and inserting "2023".

(b) Section 325(u)(3)(E) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(u)(3)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking "July 1, 2017," and inserting "the effective date of the amendment under subparagraph (D)(ii)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) TREATMENT IN RULE.—In the rule under subparagraph (D)(ii) and subsequent amendments the Secretary may treat some or all external power supplies designed to be connected to a security or life safety alarm or surveillance system as a separate product class or may extend the nonapplication under clause (ii)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. OLSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6375, the Power and Security Systems (PASS) Act, extends an important exemption from current regulations for devices such as security systems and medical devices. Specifically, many electronic devices use external power supplies that are subject to strict limits on the amount of electricity they can consume when not in use. However, these provisions are not feasible for products that have to be on 24/7, such as home security alarms and heart monitors.

This bill extends the existing exemption for external power supplies for these kinds of products. H.R. 6375 would ensure the continued availability of these important and potentially lifesaving devices, and I urge everyone to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6375, the Power and Se-

curity Systems Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague has stated, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires electronic devices to meet certain efficiency standards while in no-load mode or standby mode, and that obviously makes a lot of sense. You don't want to be consuming unnecessary energy when, in fact, you don't need to use energy; but the whole law was written in a way that it included some devices that are always on active mode. Security and life safety systems, such as video surveillance, intrusion detection, and access control systems, have to be active all of the time.

So this law is now to extend something that was an exemption, and that is going to expire unless we pass this legislation and then allow manufacturers to avoid having to go through very costly steps in order to bring it into compliance with the law that would actually make their products ineffective when it came to surveillance.

This law was originally introduced by Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE and his colleague, ROY BLUNT, who is now in the Senate, to provide that temporary exemption. This is really going to extend it.

I joined with the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO), and it is fitting that we are working with Mr. POMPEO because he is about to start a new job that has just a little bit to do with security and intelligence. We congratulate him, by the way, on that appointment by President-elect Trump.

This bill, which has the support of industry and efficiency advocates, addresses the unique needs of critical life safety and security systems to remain on at all times while meeting DOE energy efficiency standards. It is a practical bill and a straightforward bill.

By the way, it is something that we should be trying together to do more often: when we pass a bill, it is a good bill, but we find out it has got a bit of a problem; instead of arguing about it, let's fix it. We managed to accomplish that in this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Having no further speakers on this side, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, the Peanut State (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6375, the Power and Security Systems Act. This bill directs the Department of Energy to decide by 2021 whether to amend standards for certain external power supply products, and directs that these standards would not apply to products manufactured before 2023.

External power supplies convert power from an outlet to a lower voltage for use in everyday items like cell phones, laptops, power tools, and other electronics. The average home has 5 to 10 external power supplies, and that